

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MARCH 6, 2012 MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
7:30 PM Executive Closed Session/8:00 pm Public Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Birkner at 7:30 pm. Mayor Birkner then read the Open Public Meetings Law Statement: "This meeting which conforms with the Open Public Meetings law, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, is a regular Borough Council meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the municipal bulletin board."

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Birkner – Present
Councilmember Grefrath – Present
Councilmember Miller - Present
Councilmember Phayre - Present
Councilmember Quinn - Present
Councilmember Sciara - Present
Council President Waneck - Present
Borough Administrator Hoffmann – Present
Borough Attorney Doyle - Present

Committee Assignments:

Health & Recreation
Police & OEM
Finance, Administration & Capital Projects
Land Use
Fire & Ambulance
Public Properties

3. Resolution #12 - 74: Executive Closed Session

Motion: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Sciara

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes	Councilmember Miller – Yes
Councilmember Phayre – Yes	Councilmember Quinn – Yes
Councilmember Sciara – Yes	Council President Waneck – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Council President Waneck Second: Councilmember Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

The time was 8:12 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner – Present
Councilmember Grefrath - Present
Councilmember Miller – Present
Councilmember Phayre - Present
Councilmember Quinn – Present
Councilmember Sciara - Present
Council President Waneck - Present
Borough Administrator Hoffmann – Present
Borough Attorney Doyle - Present
Borough Engineer Boswell - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

6. Flag Salute

Mayor Birkner led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

a) HUMC

Mayor Birkner reviewed the news on the award of the Certificate of Need for reopening of the hospital. In discussing the Governor's visit to Westwood, Mayor Birkner said it was a great day for the Borough to have the Head of State come and formally acknowledge his support for the decision by the Health Commissioner. The Governor also discussed his vision for the state during his town hall meeting.

b) Iron Horse Reopens

Mayor Birkner announced that the Iron Horse is up and running. The Trembles are ecstatic to be back, and the community is thrilled that they have returned better than ever.

c) Christopher Hrbek 5k Memorial Scholarship Run

Mayor Birkner advised that Cheryl Hodges has met with him to discuss a 5k run for the Christopher Hrbek Scholarship Fund. He reviewed the race route, which will begin and end in Westvale Park. Mrs. Hodges has met with Recreation, the DPW and the Police to ensure minimal impact on streets and traffic. The fees for the Special Officer would be paid by the organization. The event would be held on Father's Day morning and would not interfere with Sunday services. The Governing Body consensus is to support the event.

d) Musquapsink Brook Project

Mike Ruane of the Environmental Committee reviewed the study of the Musquapsink Brook and the proposed project by Rutgers to do stream bank stabilization at Girl Scout Park and Gritman Pond. Plantings will be done in two stages, and volunteers are needed. Mayor Birkner explained that the main focus is to improve water quality by eliminating geese droppings, since the coliform level is extremely high in the brook due to the droppings. The plantings provide a barrier for geese to access the waterway. Stream bank restoration is also important as a small piece to the flood puzzle. It is also a park beautification project.

Resolution #12 - 75: Resolution Supporting Partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program for Water Quality Protection Projects in the Musquapsink Brook Watershed

Motion: Councilmember Sciara Second: Councilmember Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes	Councilmember Miller – Yes
Councilmember Phayre – Yes	Councilmember Quinn – Yes
Councilmember Sciara – Yes	Council President Waneck – Yes

B) Engineer's Report

a) Biweekly Report

Dr. Boswell reviewed the biweekly report, a copy of which is attached.

b) Broadway Intersection Additional Costs

Dr. Boswell advised that they have finally received input from NJ Transit on the Broadway

intersection plans. This input will cause a realignment of the plans to better accommodate the mechanicals, which affects all plan sheets. A proposal for the additional work has been provided for the Governing Body's review. Council President Waneck asked what precipitated this realignment. Dr. Boswell said this is the first time NJ Transit has participated in the process. They have now given their final acceptance, and the County has agreed to the revisions. Dr. Boswell believes this is the last realignment and any further changes would be minor. Council President Waneck asked if NJ Transit and the County are aware of the cost for the realignment. Dr. Boswell is certain that they are. Mayor Birkner pointed out that it is a safety factor. Dr. Boswell explained that even with the addition, the total engineering will still be under 6% of the total cost. While 8-9% would be more normal, but he was able to utilize County resources to keep the costs low. Dr. Boswell said he was able to confirm with all five Freeholders that money for the project is available and they want to complete it this year. When Councilmember Phayre commented on how the work on the traffic lights was unsuccessful, Dr. Boswell pointed out that this project will include the most sophisticated light system. Mayor Birkner said the project will facilitate a smoother traffic flow around the central business district.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects:

a) Budget Update

Councilmember Phayre advised that the Governing Body is well into the budget process, with another line-by-line meeting scheduled for March 7. There will be a state audit of the budget, which could slow down the adoption process.

2) Police and OEM:

a) Health Insurance Savings

Councilmember Miller congratulated the Governing Body regarding the HRA plan for the Borough's health insurance. Westwood was one of two communities to do this. The Borough saw a \$172,000 savings in cost avoidance, plus \$28,000 in savings, for about a \$200,000 decrease in health insurance costs.

b) Shared Dispatch Services

Councilmember Miller reported that the dispatch test was held with only Westwood and Washington Twp., since RiverVale and Old Tappan had phone system quirks. Chief Regino feels the test was very positive, and it will be repeated with all four towns participating once the quirks are addressed.

Mayor Birkner suggested an Interlocal agreement be put in place for Westwood to dispatch Washington Township in advance of the potential collaboration with the four municipalities. This will provide cost savings for both municipalities in the interim. Council President Waneck wants to be sure the study of the various other options does not get mired down by this. Councilmember Miller agreed, saying that the municipalities would only realize savings for a few months. He is not comfortable moving that aggressively.

The Governing Body discussed concerns with administrative costs and complexities for the four-town dispatch. Mayor Birkner pointed out that setting up the administration of a new entity could push the project into 2013. He is in favor of an Interlocal agreement with

Washington Township that will realize savings immediately. The Governing Body further debated the merits of an Interlocal agreement and its potential effect on the four-town dispatch options. Mayor Birkner believes the Interlocal is a separate issue from the four-town study but the Council disagreed and did not want him to forward discussions on the matter with Washington Township at this time.

Mayor Birkner reported that the Police Committee is in favor of creating an RFP for a list of potential shared services that would include dispatch, which he understands would mean it could be paid for by the County Prosecutor grant. Councilmember Miller argued that the Committee clearly discussed taking dispatch off the list. Mayor Birkner wants all options on the table. Mr. Doyle advised that Mr. Huntington has requested clarification from the County Prosecutor on what is covered by the grant. Councilmember Sciara is concerned that the Borough would be liable for repaying the grant if the components of the RFP don't meet the grant criteria. He suggested waiting for the clarification from the Prosecutor.

3) Fire and Ambulance:

a) Westwood Ambulance Corps Presentation

Steve Wolf of the Westwood Ambulance Corps. thanked the Governing Body for their diligent work on reopening the hospital. He discussed pending legislation that impacts requirements and costs as well as other issues affecting the Ambulance Corps. Mayor Birkner asked for the information so the Borough could draft a resolution. Council President Waneck urged the Governing Body members to write individual letters to the legislators as well.

4) Public Properties:

a) Bogerts Bridge Fence

Council President Waneck reported that the fence and electric box at Bogerts Bridge were damaged by a car. She would like to ask Mr. Woods and Dr. Boswell to research other solutions beside replacing the existing fence.

b) Web Site Updates

Council President Waneck reviewed the proposed upgrades to the website and the cost involved. She also discussed interactive forms. The consensus was to move ahead with the changes and investigate interactive forms further.

5) Land Use:

a) Shade Tree Committee

Councilmember Quinn noted that she will have further information from Shade Tree after their next meeting.

b) Land Use Boards

Councilmember Quinn reported on the various items pending before the Planning and Zoning Boards. Mayor Birkner noted that it is time to start considering the Planning Board's recommendations pertaining to downtown. Council President Waneck suggested the liaisons encourage the Planning Board to draft the ordinances.

6) Health and Recreation:

a) Veterans Park Revitalization

Ed Snieckus of Burgis Associates reviewed his conceptual plan for the refurbishment of the Isaac D. Bogert Park section of Veterans Park. The plan will respect the existing trees, optimize bench placement, create additional pathways to and from the bandstand, create a 25-foot brick area around the bandstand, and incorporate decorative lighting akin to the downtown lighting scheme. Councilmember Grefrath said that section would have to be cordoned off from mid-August through October. He will contact the organizations scheduled to use the park to advise them. Councilmember Grefrath advised that while Mr. Snieckus did the conceptual plan gratis, the Borough will need to contract him for the construction plans for liability purposes.

D) Attorney's Report

No report.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No report, items already covered.

8. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open the Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Miller

Second: Councilmember Sciara

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

No one wished to be heard.

Motion to close the Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Miller

Second: Councilmember Grefrath

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

9. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Mayor Birkner advised that the following Resolutions would be enacted in one motion. Councilmembers who wished to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon separately, had the opportunity to do so at this time, and said Resolutions would be considered separately. Councilmember Quinn questioned how the Fire Department Bylaws amendment would affect the Borough's insurance. Resolution d was removed from consideration until that answer is received. Resolution e was revised pertaining to the number of taxis being licensed.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

a) Resolution #12 - 76: Bill List & Statement of Cash

b) Resolution #12 - 77: Authorizing Refund of Taxes B1201 Lot 21

c) Resolution #12 - 78: Authorizing Engineering Inspection for the 2012 Road Resurfacing Program

e) Resolution #12 - 79: 2012 Renewal of Taxi/Limo Licenses

f) Resolution #12 - 80: Approval of Family Christening Party – Application to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property

- g) Resolution #12 - 81: Approval of Berkeley Elementary School PSO Application to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property**
- h) Resolution #12 - 82: Use of Veterans Park for Thomas J. Riley Senior Center**

Motion to adopt resolutions #12-76 through #12-82: Councilmember Grefrath
Second: Councilmember Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes
 Councilmember Phayre – Yes Councilmember Quinn – Yes
 Councilmember Sciara – Yes Council President Waneck – Yes

10. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Sciara Second: Councilmember Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

The time was 10:40 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk